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David G. Ryser, Reg. No. 36,407

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nick J. Huige, et al.

Serial No.: 09/448,578

Filed: November 23, 1999

Title: METHOD OF OXYGENATING YEAST SLURRY USING HYDROPHOBIC POLYMERIC MEMBRANES

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: C. Sherrer

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RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

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Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the June 4, 2001 Advisory Action Applicants respectfully note that the January 17, 2001 Office Action was the first substantive action on the merits in the above-identified application (and not a final Office Action). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendment submitted with Applicants' May 17, 2001 response, and that the Examiner issue a substantive action. **Applicants also**

note that the basis for Applicants' limitation in amended

06/13/2001 0000004 170055 0944857A

claim 1 can be found at page 10, lines 22-24.

Applicants also request that the U.S. Patent Office database be corrected to reflect that the January 17, 2001 Office Action was non-final.

Conclusion

In view of the above Remarks, and the amendments and Remarks in Applicants' May 17, 2001 response, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

The Applicants wish to invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below if discussion with the Applicants' attorney would be of assistance to the Examiner or further the prosecution of the present application.

No fees are believed necessary in connection with this response and no further fees are believed necessary in connection with Applicants' May 17, 2001 response (beyond the one month extension fee already authorized in that response). If any fees are deemed necessary, please charge such fees to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick J. Huige, et al.

Dated: June 11, 2001

By: David G. Ryser
David G. Ryser
Reg. No. 36,407
QUARLES & BRADY LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53202-4497
(414) 277-5717

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